

Executive Council Committee on Historically Black Colleges and Universities

June 16, 2021

Minutes of the Teleconference

HBCU COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT: Canon Martini Shaw (Chair), Ms. Martha Alexander, Canon Ron Byrd, Canon Jamie Callaway, Dr. Joel Cunningham, Dr. Scott Evenbeck, Canon Anita George, Dr. Eugene Lowe, Bishop Sam Rodman, and Bishop Andrew Waldo.

Regrets: Canon Michele Hagans and Fr. Lang Lowery.

Guests: Mr. Kurt Barnes and Ms. Cecilia Malm.

Cn. Shaw called the meeting to order at 10:02 AM. Cn. Callaway offered a prayer.

The roll was taken. The minutes from the May meeting were Joel and Jamie moved, seconded and approved as presented.

St. Augustine's Update (SAU)

Bp. Rodman observed that the new president is concentrating her time to get matters in order over the summer months. He had was nothing significant to report. He continues to work on getting Chaplain Hershey's invoice for the pension contribution to the treasurer for payment.

Voorhees Update

Bp. Waldo was not able to attend the Zoom meeting with the finalists for the presidency. His proxy, however, was impressed with all three candidates. The hope is that a decision will be made in the next couple of weeks. A meeting is scheduled for June 21 to achieve a recommendation for a hire. That being in place, a July 1 special meeting will be held to arrive at a decision.

The chaplain search was suspended while Bp. Waldo was attending to family matters. Concern was expressed over keeping the chapel functioning. There are no candidates yet because of the need to complete the job description. The chaplain's engagement with the school will be covered, if Voorhees agrees to use TEC funds, partly with the TEC grant that would enhance the ministry. There was some discussion about increasing the salary in order to attract appropriate candidates.

Cn. Byrd talked about his conversation with Chaplain Hershey at SAU. Things are going well with Dr. McPhail, who wants to strengthen the relationship with TEC. The school will be making chapel mandatory for the students. They hope for 1600 students in the fall, a 600-student increase. They are moving the principal church service to Sunday evening, allowing the chaplain to go to various churches in the diocese.

Regarding this year's scholarship awards, there were 33 applicants and 2 referrals of which 27 applicants are to be awarded scholarships. \$67,000 was left unused this cycle. Of the total amount available (\$174,721), recommendations were made totaling \$106500. EC will finalize the awards at its meeting at the end of the month. Scholarships are specific in many cases and the challenged area

was with black seminarians. There are only about 5 applications annually, according to the records from the Seminary of the Southwest.

Cn. Byrd is working with Bp. Waldo on the chaplain search at Voorhees.

Mr. Barnes will present a draft budget for 2022 next week to EC that will include the amounts for the two colleges.

Development Office Update

Ms. Malm talked about the OOD Zoom events with PB concerning different ministries. September 29 from 5:00 – 6:30 PM is a confirmed date to discuss the schools with the Presiding Bishop. Dr. McPhail will participate. Dr. Brown at Voorhees will help get their new president on the schedule. Congressman James Clyburn from South Carolina will participate as well.

The Absalom Jones fund continues to do very well. A portion of an estate in CT is to be given to the fund by way of an IRA, which remains unknown until maturity. This person already made a \$5K gift.

Ms. Malm has been in conversations with Dr. Brown at Voorhees about plans for rebranding in 2022. The new tag line proposed is “Voorhees College - an Episcopal HBCU.” A church in New Hampshire is considering hosting a dedicated offering for Voorhees. Cn. Lowrey will be going to a board retreat in July in Atlanta.

At SAU Ms. Malm continues to work on relationships with churches. Fr. Byrd said that Dr. McPhail will try to make right the chaplain’s medical coverage.

New Business

Cn. Shaw talked about the rebirth of St. Paul’s and the bishop of the diocese being 100% behind those efforts. Activities on Facebook reveal that the effort is alive and active. There is a golf outing planned in September with a famous sports person, who is sponsoring the event.

Mr. Barnes will reread the trust funds affecting the three schools. The future budget will be involved in the rebirth of St. Paul’s. Cn. George reminded everyone that the closing of St. Paul’s was the reason for the formation of this committee, when the Church felt it needed a more hands-on approach and partnership with the schools. All three shared in trust fund funding.

Discussion turned to face-to-face meeting and its possible location in 2022. Mr. Barnes announced that the DFMS will not approve any sponsored face-to-face meetings through 3Q2021. It was suggested that this conversation be on the agenda for the September meeting, which will be the 13th at 10:00 AM, perhaps with the new bishop of SC and the new President of Voorhees attending. Bishop Waldo will issue the invitation.

Dr. Lowe moved to adjourn at 10:30 AM. Bp. Waldo seconded and the motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,
Nancy Caparulo
Staff support to the Committee